

STATE AGENCIES PREPARING FOR POSSIBLE HURRICANE STRIKE

MONTGOMERY - Governor Bob Riley said today that state agencies are making preparations for Hurricane Dennis and he urged citizens near Alabama's Gulf Coast to begin taking general storm precautions now.

"With the ferocity of Hurricane Ivan still fresh in our memories, all Alabamians understand how important it is to be ready as early as possible," Governor Riley said. "The Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) is coordinating emergency preparations and response. The Alabama National Guard, the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation are already taking action to prepare for the possibility of landfall here in Alabama, and I'm encouraging all residents along our coast to take general storm precautions now to avoid a rush later."

General precautions should include preparing for the possibility of being evacuated, he said. These precautions also should include stocking up on spare batteries for flashlights and radios, keeping gas tanks full, making sure generators are operational, and gathering important documents like insurance policies and birth certificates and putting them into a readily accessible place.

"Hurricanes are unpredictable, however the current forecast track means Dennis could have a major impact on Alabama," said Bruce Baughman, Director of AEMA. "We want residents and visitors in Alabama to pay close attention to this storm through local news media and local EMAs and be prepared to take action."

AEMA officials are receiving regular updates from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Hurricane Prediction Center and keeping local EMAs and state agencies informed.

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For more information, contact the Governor's Press Office at 334-242-7150.